



King County

## Citizens' Advisory Commission on Homeless Encampments

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### Meeting Summary June 29, 2004

**Commissioners Present:** Carl Cole, Shane Davies, Dini Duclos, Paul Fischburg, Bill Hobson, Bill Kirlin-Hackett, Sandra Kortum, Tony Lee, Alan Painter, Holly Plackett, Steven Pyeatt, Susan Rynas, Bob Santos, Judy Schnebele, Doug Stevenson, Ron Swicord, Robert Thompson MD, Rev. Harriett Walden, Linda Weedman, Janna Wilson

**Commissioners Absent:** Al Patterson, Rhonda Berry

**Guests:** Stan Burriss, Scott Morrow, Matthew Bolar, Leo Rhodes, Anitra Freeman, Scott Washington, Sarah O'Shea, David Trenton, Dan Mahoney

**Staff Present:** Sally Bagshaw, John Briggs, David Wertheimer, Jackie MacLean, Sherry Hamilton, Patrick Vanzo, Carole Antoncich

Facilitator David Wertheimer welcomed commissioners and guests, and each person gave a brief self-introduction. At Commissioner Pyeatt's request, there was a moment of silence for Tukwila firefighter Jack Stevens who died recently in a motorcycle accident while riding for charity.

Mr. Wertheimer reviewed the agenda and mentioned that written responses to the questions e-mailed to staff by Commissioner Swicord were part of the meeting packet.

There was a discussion about materials received by the county from citizens interested in the work of the Commission, with request that they be sent to Commission members for their review. It was decided that only signed or attributed materials would be passed on, and that this would be done electronically if possible. If any member prefers a hard copy of materials, they should inform staff.

Commissioners were again reminded that their role at this time is to collect information to inform their decisions later in the process. They are not to represent or speak for the Commission in public; only the commission-elected co-chairs will be authorized to speak on behalf of the group.

The King County Prosecutor's Office provided a presentation on legal issues related to homeless encampments. They reviewed the local historical context, including the 2002 City of Seattle Consent Decree, constitutional issues, and a brief description of King County's complex zoning regulations, and permitting options.

Members of SHARE/WHEEL and residents of Tent City described the notification process that they have historically used to notify communities when Tent City moves into a new neighborhood. Ten days before the move, leaflets are distributed door to door within a two-block radius of the site, notifying neighbors of a community meeting. The community meeting

is convened and conducted by SHARE/WHEEL. At this meeting, they explain how Tent City works; the terms of their agreement with their host regarding security, sanitation, conduct, violence, drug and alcohol use, etc.; and also answer any questions neighbors may have. The presenters invited Commissioners to visit Tent City anytime, or to call SHARE/WHEEL at (206) 448-7889 and make an appointment if they wished to have a more organized discussion with residents.

Staff from the King County Department of Community and Human Services presented information on the number of homeless people in King County, the continuum of emergency shelter services in King County, and also provided a description of different factors that might affect an individual's decision as to where to seek shelter.

It was agreed that if Commissioners have questions on any of the three presentations, they should be sent to Sherry Hamilton, who will forward them on to the appropriate person for response.

There was discussion of the two public hearings that the Commission is charged with hosting to gather public comment on issues related to homeless encampments. It was agreed that the Commission will state clearly to the audience what tasks have been assigned to them, the narrow scope of their mandate, and the topics of information and feedback on which they are gathering public comment. Speakers will be given two minutes to speak. At two minutes, they will be given a warning, with one additional minute to finish their remarks.

After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed that, especially in light of the two upcoming public hearings, it would be appropriate at this time to proceed with the election of co-chairs. Through an open-voting process, Commissioners elected Holly Plackett and Bill Kirlin-Hackett to serve as co-chairs.

The meeting adjourned.